

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00557 301451Z

50

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /031 W

----- 121890

R 301238Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4902

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 557

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY; USIA FOR IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, LT

SUBJECT: ARREST OF JOURNALIST

REF: MASERU A-29

1. MIKE PITSO, LESOTHO JOURNALIST AND CORRESPONDENT FOR RAND DAILY MAIL, WAS ARRESTED IN MASERU MAY 23 ON UNDISCLOSED CHARGES. PITSO RELEASED WEEK LATER BUT NO EXPLANATION FOR ARREST YET AVAILABLE.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED ONLY THAT PITSO SAID NOT TO BE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH RECENTLY-IMPOSED GOL GUIDELINES (REFAIR) ON PRESS ACTIVITIES ALTHOUGH IT SPECULATED ONE ARTICLE HE WROTE ON FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE'S VISIT TO PEKING DISPLEASED GOVERNMENT. FACT THAT PITSO ALSO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NEWLY-FORMED LESOTHO UNION OF JOURNALISTS HAS ALSO FUELED SPECULATION THAT PITSO'S ARREST RELATED TO HIS PRESS ACTIVITIES.

3. RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED MAY 28 THAT BOTSWANA UNION OF

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JOURNALISTS HAS PROTESTED PITSO'S ARREST BUT NATURE OF PROTEST

NOT REVEALED.

HAUGHT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: blochd0
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TAGS: PINS, LT, (PITSO, MIKE)
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